(b) whether Government have taken up the matter with Government of United Kingdom; if so, the outcome thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DINESH SINGH) : (a) Government are aware that an Asylum and Immigration Appeals Bill is under consideration in the British Parliament. One of the provisions of the Bill is the withdrawal of the right of appeal against refusal of visa for those seeking short-term entry into the UK for six months or less, including students.

(b) This matter has been taken up with the British Government at a high level. We have been informed that the provisions of the Bill under consideration will have no effect on the grant of visas to bonafide short-term visitors to the United Kingdom.

(c) Does not arise.

Visas issued to Consulate General of India Karachi

1775. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) how many Pakistani nationals were issued visas to visit India by the Consulate General of India in Karachi to-date after Pakistans directive to India to cut the strength of Consulate by half :

(b) whether the Pakistani directive has any effect on the visas seekers in Karachi;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof;

(d) whether Government proposes to fix any quota or number of visas which may be issued by the Consulate at Karachi; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DINESH SINGH) : (a) During the period from 28th January, 1993 when the staff strength of the Consulate General at Karachi was brought down to 20 personnel to 4th March 1993, 1703 visas have been issued at Karachi.

(b) and (c) On an average the Consulate General at Karachi had been issuing 700 visas per day in the period prior to the reduction in staff strength.

The reduced strength of staff in the Consulate General of India in Karachi has seriously affected the expeditious processing of visa requests of Pakistani nationals to visit India and has consequently reduced people to people contact between India and Pakistan.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Non-acceptance of Indian Nominee in Disarmament Secretariat

1776. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that India could get its nominee accepted by the Disarmament Secretariat;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that our nominee was too junior in status; and

(c) if so, what are the details and reasons for our failure to secure acceptance of Indian representative in the Disarmament Secretariat ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DINESH SINGH) : (a) to (c) Government had nominated its candidate for the post of Deputy Executive Secretary in the Preparatory Commission Secretariat of the Chemical Weapons Convention. The selection for the post has been deferred as other countries (Austria, Pakistan and China) have announced their candidature for the same post.

The nomination was done taking into account the nominee's functional experience and abilities.

Indians detained in U.A.E.

1777. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to a news item captioned "UAE deports 40 Indians" as reported in the Hindustan Times dated the 3rd February, 1993;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the UAE authorities on unknown charges have detained 40 Indians employed in Oman for nearly 50 days; and